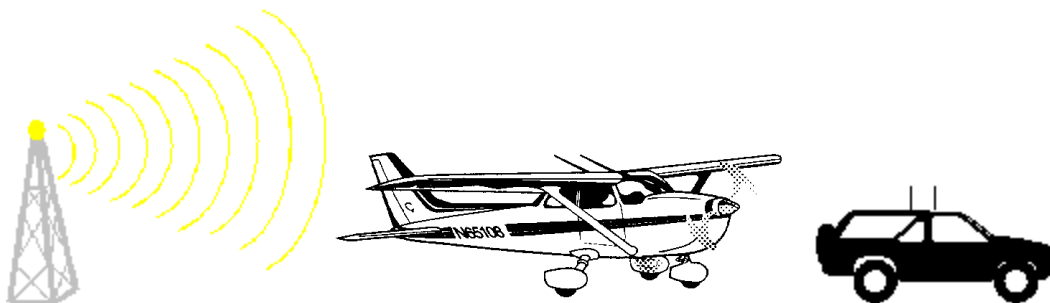




OPS BRIEF



Welcome to this first issue of a monthly newsletter to keep you aware of recent operations activity and what is "in the mill". We don't plan to compete with CAP's publication *Civil Air Patrol News* since our target audience is only the operations community. Also we will continue our occasional communications letter to the field and our quarterly stan-eval and monthly safety newsletters. This update is a cryptic to the point view of operational matters and perhaps an outside item of interest.

An example of an outside item that I think is worthy of comment is the HQ I.G. Quality Air Force Assessment Cross-Tell publication. This is where you can see how others accomplish things in a manner which might enhance your units efficiency and effectiveness. Moreover the best or a good way of getting the job done is most often the easiest. These "Benchmarks" might prevent you from reinventing some wheels.

One final thought in this limited space is to recall to you the safety cultural change effort started last December in Atlanta. Frankly, we aren't seeing the change we had hoped for nationwide. I think the Wing Commanders are serious but our usual CAP problem of communicating to the level where the rubber meets the road is apparent once again. Fortunately some Commanders are correcting this problem quite vigorously. One, for example, is considering another "safety down day" to get the attention of everyone in his wing. Another has gotten extremely serious in the stan-eval area by insisting that check pilots give absolutely quality check rides. At a recent check pilot course in this wing only one pilot passed. A CAP WIDE cultural change will not happen unless we all get this aggressive with it.

Until Next Time
Glen Atwell
Operations Director

Distance Learning

In partnership with the National Guard, CAP has presented it's first ever Distance Learning program. The program, Digital Camera Training, was developed by the National Guard Training Center and utilized the Warrior Net, their satellite down-link network. This is the first of many training programs that will develop and extend our partnership with the National Guard and other Federal agencies. Look for more information on the FAA Drop In training in next month's newsletter.

Inland SAR Course

Several sessions of the Inland SAR Planner Course will be offered in FY 98. Emergency Services personnel, particularly Mission Coordinator (MC) trainees and qualified MCs should attend. Personnel who wish to attend one of the below listed courses should submit a CAPF 17 through the wing and region to arrive at HQ CAP/DOSP at least 30 days prior to the event. All operationally oriented members may apply, but preference will be given to current MCs or trainees.

Date Location

10-14 Nov 97 Riverside, CA
17-21 Nov 97 Vandenberg AFB, CA
12-16 Jan 98 Hickam AFB, HI
26-30 Jan 98 RTC Yorktown, VA
16-20 Mar 98 Marion, IL
20-24 Apr 98* Minneapolis, MN*
27 Apr - 1 May 98* New Jersey*
1-5 Jun 98 RTC Yorktown, VA
3-7 Aug 98 RTC Yorktown, VA
14-18 Sep 98** Ft Lewis, WA
* Locations and/or dates are tentative.

** Course could be pushed back to 21-24 Sep 98.

Nurses & Doctors

Initial and recurring training requirements for LPNs, RNs, and MDs is sufficient to fulfill first aid requirements for ground team member as long as the member has a current license. If the nurse or doctor is not current, then he or she should re-qualify in first aid. Nurses or doctors who have a valid license but do not actively work in the medical industry should consider taking a first aid course as a refresher.

National GSAR School

Students from across the country converged in Charlottesville, VA at the Miller School for the 1997 National Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR)

School. Ninety-three cadet and senior members participated as students or staff members at the activity. Students were trained in a variety of ground search techniques and procedures, ranging from electronic direction finding for ELTs to helicopter operations with orientation rides provided by the VA Army National Guard. The activity culminated in a two-day training exercise completely staffed by NGSAR students searching for a missing person who was successfully found on the second day, earlier than expected.

Plans for the 1998 NGSAR school are already being made, so expect to see information about the school released soon.

Trends For Checkpilots

We are continuing to push aircraft into assorted physical structures. What makes matters worse, we do it in the presence of witnesses. Most of these incidents involve multiple people obviously not paying attention to the task at hand. How do we evaluate potential behavior that might lead to such an incident? Perhaps our potential abuser is an individual that is always in a hurry, has his/her mind on some significant life event, a habitual poor planner, or just plain has a bad attitude. Unless the behavior is excessive, I doubt you would consider busting the individual on his/her annual CAPF 5 ride, but a rather strong counseling session might be in order. If it's obvious the pilot has a problem that is affecting his flying then grounding would be in order.

Flight Release Officer Training Course

Flight Release Officer (FRO) training kit has been sent to each wing and region. The kit provides a standardized course of study that includes an instructor guide, student handout, overhead slides, and computer disks containing a Microsoft Powerpoint presentation that can be played with or without the software. The course was developed and constructed by HQ CAP/DOV and was mailed to each wing liaison office with instructions to inform the wing commander and get the course in the hands of the responsible wing individual. To date, several wings have presented the program and the comments have been favorable.

Note: The kit is not simply a handout to a prospective FRO. Its a total package for conducting an FRO course with instructor guides and a student workbook. Have Fun.

Human Resource Management

HRM is a unique blend of Crew Resource Management, Risk Management and Error Management. It originated in the Texas Wing under the guidance

of Major Rick Swanson, CAP who teaches this program for his employer, Continental Airlines. Many people, especially from CAP and CAP-USAF, have contributed to this evolving CAP program. It was publicized on a national basis at the recent National Board at Las Vegas and received a standing ovation. The goal of this program is to promote safety and efficiency in all CAP missions through effective team coordination. It's not just safety; it addresses leadership, communication and listening and cultural improvement within the organization. A Power Point presentation is available on the CAP Web site. The program is downloadable from the safety section at www.capnhq.gov.

FY 98 Goals

Recently we've set some goals for the next year in the CAP communications program and we'd like to share those with you so you know where we're heading. They are:

1. Conduct a successful test of the NEC-approved equipment rehab project. This will be accomplished by identifying sources for continued equipment acquisition, instituting the procedures for conducting cost effective rehabilitation, and consolidating the resultant data in order to present a comprehensive report to the NEC in May 98.
2. Develop a Civil Air Patrol Communications Master Acquisition Plan (MAP) by assisting field commanders and communications staff officers in quantifying their communications requirements, conducting a complete survey and study of field requirements to validate the overall need, and writing a comprehensive Civil Air Patrol Communications Requirements document.
3. Develop a long-range strategic plan for the communications program using the data gathered from the Communications MAP and the rehab project. This plan will encompass the development of a transition plan to the 2008 LMR standards. And working with IS, we will develop new directions for CAP communications that will take advantage of new technology.

National Technology Center

We are pleased to announce the formulation of the CAP National Technology Center (NTC). This activity is the result of our government excess equipment refurbishment plan initially briefed to the National Board in March and finally presented to the NEC in May of this year. The NEC approved the plan and we have begun operation of the facility.

The mission of the NTC will be to acquire, process, rehab, and distribute communications and computer equipment from many diverse sources. Principally our sources will be other federal agencies funded to constantly upgrade their systems. The NTC will develop and maintain liaison with these

agencies and work to acquire the equipment we need to refurbish our system and move the communications program forward. This will be, to the greatest extent possible, at no cost to CAP units or individuals.

The budget presented and approved by the NEC provides the funding necessary to operate the facility, pay the salaries of two technicians, and purchase parts and supplies necessary to perform the rehab of the equipment processed through the facility.

We are pleased to announce the hiring of the two technicians who will run this facility. They are LTC David (Pete) Wharton and MAJ Mark Kunkowski. Both gentlemen have a long history of involvement and understanding of the CAP Communications program and will work hard to make the NTC a valuable tool for the future equipping of CAP. LTC Wharton will serve as the NTC Manager.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

We in operations believe that CAP is also supposed to be fun. Each month we will feature a cartoon or quote. Also, if you have a funny quote or know anyone with artistic ability that wants to submit a cartoon, then have them get in touch with us.



USEFUL WEB SITES

Technology is becoming an integral part of everything that we do, and we in operations feel that it is important that CAP members take advantage of the material available over the internet. Each month we will list a few sites on the World Wide Web that could be useful to you.

<http://www.aetc.af.mil/se2/home.htm>

The Air Education and Training Command (AETC) hosts a safety web site called the AETC Safety Net. It has information on flight and ground safety as well as operations safety and operational risk management.

<http://www.acc.af.mil/afrcc/>

The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center's web site has many interesting facts, downloadable and links for those of us in the SAR community. The Nation Wide Aircraft Crash Locator can be particularly helpful to find out the area of high probability of plan crashes within your wing.

http://www.dtic.dla.mil/doctrine/jel/c_pubs2.htm

This is the link to the Joint Publication Menu on the Joint Chiefs of Staff home page. It has several publications of interest, but CAP ES personnel should especially check out JP 3-50 and JP 3-50.1, the National Search and Rescue Manual, Volumes I and II respectively. All publications on this page are able to be read in Adobe Acrobat 3.0. Free copies can be downloaded from: <http://www.adobe.com/proindex/acrobat/main.html>

<http://www.capnhq.gov>

And we can't forget to list our own web page. Several new items are currently available on CAP's own web site like the online CAPF 5 questionnaire and online CAPFs 18 and 82.

How did you like the first issue of the Ops Brief? We hope that you enjoyed it, and also found it informative. If you have suggestions or submissions for future issues, please forward them to:

HQ CAP/DO
ATTN: Ops Brief Editor
105 S. Hansell Street
Maxwell AFB AL 36112

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